

March 11, 1976

public utilities being prevented from paying any portion of the membership for its employees to private organizations. Now I offered this amendment the other day and there was not many here, there were certainly not enough to adopt the amendment. There was no stated opposition to it but I did discover that some may have been concerned that engineers and other professionals who work with these utilities belong to and do attend meetings sponsored by various professional organizations. There is a direct relationship between these organizations and the duties that they perform. That is not what the amendment was designed to prohibit. So, the amendment that I offer now exempts that type of membership to those types of organization. The utilities could still provide subsidization for the membership fees in those professional organizations. The thrust of the amendment would be to prevent utilities OPPD and MUD from paying memberships to Ak-Sar-Ben for their employees. Since the money for these memberships come in from the fee that people have to pay for gas, water, electricity essentials, I don't think that it is proper for a public utility too take peoples money and give it in the form of membership dues to a private organization. There was not, again I say, any stated opposition to the intent of the amendment. However after the amendment failed and there was a small notation of it in the paper I was contacted by some people who said that they were unaware that MUD and OPPD had been doing this. Well they have been doing it for years. It is one of those things that the public has been unaware of. Now, that it has become a matter of public knowledge, and I hope concern, I am asking that LB665 be returned for this amendment. Personally, and I have talked to Senator Lewis about it because it is his bill, I don't think that the adoption of this amendment will weaken his bill, and I don't think that it would cause anybody not to vote for his bill who are going to vote for it anyway. If you have any questions about the amendment, Senator DeCamp, I would be glad to answer, Senator DeCamp, or Senator Maresh or anybody else. Oh, Senator Maresh is for it. I hope that if you have any doubts as to what the intent of the amendment is, you will ask me and not leave anything hang up in the air. I'll tell you again that it would exempt those types of professional types of associations and engineers and other specialized personnel may have to be associated with because of their duties and position with the utility.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? The question is the return of LB665 for the consideration of this specific amendment discussed by Senator Chambers. Record your vote. Please vote. Have you all voted?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (mike not activated) on the good nature of my colleagues and alienating some vote that I may have, I am going to ask for a Call of the House and a Roll Call Vote.

PRESIDENT: Alright, clear the board. The question is shall the House go under call. Record your vote on that proposition. Have you voted on the proposition as to whether or not to go under Call? Have you all voted to go under Call? Record.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 16 nays.

PRESIDENT: The House is not under Call. Proceed with the roll.

CLERK: Roll call vote. 22 ayes, 16 nays, 11 nays. Vote appears on page 1075-76.